



## The City of Morgantown

389 Spruce Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
[www.morgantownwv.gov](http://www.morgantownwv.gov)

**CONTACT:** Krista Baker, Public Communications Manager  
[kbaker@cityofmorgantown.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofmorgantown.org)  
304-284-7426

Melissa Burch,  
BOPARC Executive Director  
[mburch@BOPARCH.org](mailto:mburch@BOPARCH.org)  
304-296-8356 ext. 17

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 27, 2016

## **BOPARC Discusses Ash Tree Removal from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

### **MESSAGE FROM BOPARC TO PARK PATRONS:**

BOPARC, like many other municipal park agencies throughout the region, is currently experiencing the loss of several ash trees within our system due to the Emerald ash borer (EAB). This species is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. Emerald ash borer is also established in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003, northern Indiana in 2004, northern Illinois and Maryland in 2006, western Pennsylvania and other parts of West Virginia in 2007. It has invaded woodlands in Wisconsin, Missouri, Virginia, Minnesota, New York, Kentucky, Iowa, Tennessee, Connecticut, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Georgia as well.

This invasive species has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America and caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to take quarantine measures and establish fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.

In the coming weeks, you might see arborists and other tree professionals in our parks evaluating damage as we determine a large scale course of action in consultation with the Tree Board. Although this course of action will require the removal of dead and dying ash trees within BOPARC managed areas, we are also working with the Tree Board and Urban Landscape on a tree replacement plan.

We will be posting information on the BOPARC website regarding the Emerald ash borer as well as a list of possible replacement trees native to our area and approved by the Tree Board and Urban Landscape. We welcome suggestions, comments and questions from our community regarding the infestation and will periodically update our patrons on tree removal and new plantings. If you do have questions or comments, please forward them to [info@boparc.org](mailto:info@boparc.org).

BOPARC thanks the community for your support of parks, recreation and the health of our urban forest system.

###

